

From: Dave Kennel
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 3:55pm
Subject: Microsoft Anti Trust settlement-NO!

Dear Sirs,

Let me state, in the strongest possible terms, the proposed "settlement" with Microsoft is more surrender than punishment. It does virtually nothing to punish their past abuse of monopoly power nor does it prevent future abuse. In fact it seems to legitimize Microsoft's behavior!

The fact is that Microsoft was easily convicted of abuse of monopoly power even though not all of the evidence that could have been used was presented. Microsoft has, and will continue to, run roughshod over consumers of all sizes from the corporate entity to the home PC user. Despite Microsoft's marketing they do not provide superior value or superior technology. In many respects Microsoft's products are overpriced and very shoddy.

Microsoft currently has 90% of the PC OS market and 85% of the web browser market. The past year has seen unprecedented virus outbreaks that exploited flaws in Microsoft products. These virus outbreaks cost US businesses millions of dollars every year. What will the economic impact be of a major virus outbreak when Microsoft runs on 85% or more of enterprise servers as well?

Microsoft must be forced to sell Windows licenses to any OEM who asks at the same price. They must be forced to remove Internet Explorer from the OS. OEMs must have the ability to install the programs and icons that they wish on the windows desktop. Microsoft must be forced to spin off the MS Office group into an independent business venture. Microsoft must be forced to obey software and hardware standards. Instead of the anti competitive mantra of "embrace and extend" Microsoft must be put into a position where their mantra becomes "better, faster, cheaper."

The DOJ has the conviction, please make sure that it is accompanied by real reforms.

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